

Cultural Contrasts

Tour Highlights

7 Breakfasts

5 Lunches

6 Dinners

Art of Cheese factory tour

Kauri Museum

Ferry to Russell

Ascension Winery wine tasting

Waitomo & Ruakuri caves

Te Puia Maori Experience & Hangi dinner

Lunch cruise on Lake Taupo

Seleni Wine Estate cooking demonstration

Tastings at 2 Martinborough wineries

Complimentary airport transfer by limousine

Our 7 day, 8 night tour of the North Island.

Cultural Contrasts is the ideal tour for those wanting to experience all that the North Island of New Zealand has to offer over the course of seven days. From the first settlements in the Bay of Islands to the cultural heartland of Rotorua, fine wine producing regions of the Hawkes Bay and Wairapa to sophisticated Wellington, you will see, taste and interact with it all.

DAY 1

Auckland – Bay of Islands

Your tour begins by travelling north from Auckland, stopping at the Art of Cheese in Puhoi, before travelling onto visit to the Kauri Museum, at Matakoho. Lunch follows at the mouth of Hokianga Harbour with a short trip onto the day's destination; the Bay of Islands. In the evening you will enjoy a cruise to Russell and dinner in a 5 star restaurant.

Accom: Paihia Beach Resort – 1 Bedroom Superior

DAY 2

Bay of Islands

Today is an open day to experience the pleasures of the Bay of Islands. A tour of Kerikeri, a Cape Brett hole in the Rock or Dolphin Encounter cruise, golf at Kauri Cliffs or Carrington Golf courses are some of the many optional activities on offer. There are an abundance of cafés and restaurants in Pahia, Russell and Keri Keri for you to choose from.

Accom: Paihia Beach Resort – 1 Bedroom Superior

DAY 3

Bay of Islands - Matakana - Mangatawhiri Valley

Today you will travel south down the Pacific Coast highway through small towns to Warkworth and Ascension Winery in the renowned Matakana region. Wine tasting accompanies lunch before you travel onto the Mangatawhiri Valley where you will be greeted with canapés and wine at Hotel & Spa du Vin. A full dinner follows in the hotels restaurant.

Accom: Heritage Hotel & Spa du Vin – 'Selection' rooms

DAY 4

Mangatawhiri Valley – Waitomo - Rotorua

Travelling south you will encounter the remarkable Waitomo and Ruakuri Caves. Lunch today is at country home and farm. You then travel onto to the geothermal region of Rotorua, with dinner at superb Peppers on the Point.

Accom: Millennium Hotel Rotorua – Club Rooms

DAY 5

Rotorua

Today is at your leisure to enjoy all that Rotorua has to offer. The Kawarau Jet boat experience, farm show at the Agrodome or the Polynesian Lake Spa are just a few of many optional activities to try. This evening you will experience A unique meal and unforgettable Maori cultural evening at Te Puia.

Accom: Millennium Hotel Rotorua – Club Rooms

DAY 6

Rotorua - Taupo - Napier

Leaving Rotorua you travel west to view the magnificent Huka Falls before boarding your vessel for a luncheon cruise on Lake Taupo. The scenic trip to Napier in the Hawkes Bay is the ideal relaxation before the gastronomic delights of the Seleni Wine Estate to round off the day.

Accom: The Crown Hotel – Studio Rooms

DAY 7

Napier - Martinborough - Wellington

Napier's art deco town centre tour starts the day, after which you travel to the picturesque Wairarapa district, for lunch, and wine tasting in Martinborough. Your day's journey finishes in Wellington; New Zealand's capital city where you will enjoy a meal in the striking settings of a centrally located 5 star restaurant.

Accom: Duxton Hotel Wellington – Club Rooms

DAY 8

Depart Wellington

After waking to your continental style or cooked breakfast you will be transferred at your leisure to the Wellington International Airport.